

receptacle of burnt-offerings: the gods
generate VAIS-
WANARA, the conveyer of oblations, the
emblem of
sacrifice.¹

3. The offerer of (sacrificial) food
becomes wise,
AGNI, from thee: from thee heroes
become the van-
quishers of foes: therefore do thou, royal
VAISWANARA,
bestow upon us enviable riches.

4. All the worshipers together praise
thee, im-
mortal AGNI, when born like an infant:
when thou
shines t, VAISWANARA, between the
parental (heaven
and earth), they obtain immortality
through thy
(sacred) rites.

5. AGNI, VAISWANARA, these thy mighty
deeds no
one can resist: when born on the lap of
thy parents,²
thou hast stationed the banner of the
days on the
paths of the firmament.

6. The summits of the firmament are
measured by
the light of VAISWANAKA, the manifester of
ambrosial
(rain) : all the regions are overspread (by
the vapour)
on his brow,³ and the seven gliding
(streams) spring
from thence like branches.

7. VAISWANARA, the performer of sacred
acts, is he
who made the regions; foreseeing (he has
made) the
luminaries of heaven, and has spread
throughout all
worlds; the irresistible guardian (of all),
the protector
of ambrosial (rain).

¹ *Santa-Veda*, n. 49*2.

² That is, according to the scholiast, in the
'*antariksha*', or
firmament

³ This idea has occurred before: the smoke that
rises from
sacrificial fires becomes clouds in the atmosphere,
whence rain
falls and rivers are filled.